

**REMARKS**

The specification has been amended to identify information relating to the international application and priority application of the present application, to delete reference to document numbers, and to correct minor informalities.

The claims have been amended to remove multiple dependencies and new claims directed to the embodiments of the biodegradable substrate of the invention wherein the biodegradable nonwoven fabric comprises a laminated product including a plurality of layers (claim 18) and the biodegradable nonwoven fabric comprises a plurality of the laminated products having a plurality of layers (claim 19) as supported, inter alia, by Example 1, and directed to the embodiments of Example 1 (claim 20) and Example 6 (claim 21).

An abstract of the disclosure has been added to the application.

The drawings have been amended by replacing original Fig. 1 with an amended Fig. 1 that includes the reference numerals referred to in the description of Fig. 1 in the specification on pages 18-22. No new matter has been added.

U.S. National Stage of  
PCT/JP2003/013847  
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

**PATENT**

In the event any additional fees are required, please also  
charge our Deposit Account No. 111833.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: New sheet of drawings (Fig. 1)  
Sheet of Abstract of the Disclosure

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:**

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1 to add reference numerals that are omitted in original Fig. 1. This sheet replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1.